REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22, and 24-28 are currently pending in this application, Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 having been amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 is found in the specification, and no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 15 was objected to; Claims 1-5, 9-12, 15-19, and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,496) in view of Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,495,979, herein Park), and further in view of Kim (WO 99/66655); and Claims 8 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Park, in view of Kim, and further in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,719).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representatives on December 19, 2005. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action, were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

With respect to the objection to Claim 15, Claim 15 is amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 us unpatentable over the combination of Okazawa, Park, and Kim, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 recite, *inter alia*, "the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the communication request signal

is received by the image forming device concerned, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned."

The outstanding Office Action relies on Park to describe the above-noted elements of Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24. Applicants respectfully traverse the position that Park describes the claimed "the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the communication request signal is received by the image forming device concerned, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned, for which power supplied to the power-supplied portions was previously turned off."

Park discloses a printer device that cuts off the supply of all voltages to the printer device, ***regardless of the kind of power-saving command***, if the power-saving command is detected.[1] The printer device disclosed by Park is normally operated by heating a heater at a rapid speed if a recovery command is detected. There is no description or suggestion in Park of automatically turning on, when a ***request signal*** is received, the supplying of power to only a particular power-supplied portion of the image forming device.

Furthermore, Park discloses a "power switching circuit for cutting off ***all voltages*** supplied to the peripheral devices, including the heater but excluding the control unit" (emphasis added).[2] This does not describe or suggest the claimed "supplying of power from the power source to only the power supplied portions of the image forming device concerned."

Park also discloses "starting the supply of all voltages cut off when the second power-saving control signal is inputted from the control unit."[3] As noted above, not only is the heater cut off from voltage, but the peripheral devices are cut off from voltage too. When the second power-saving control signal is input, all voltages that were cut off (peripheral devices

[1] Park, col. 15, lines 10-28.
[2] Park, col. 3, lines 38-40.
[3] Park, col. 3, lines 42-44.

and the heater) are restored. There is no supplying of power to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned. Furthermore, as the amendment to Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 clarifies, the power-supplied portions were previously without power. Thus, the control unit disclosed in Park, which does not have its voltage cut off, is not a power-supplied portion.

Thus, Park does not teach "the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the communication request signal is received by the image forming device concerned, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned, for which power supplied to the power-supplied portions was previously turned off."

Okazawa and Kim do not cure the above-noted deficiency in Park.

Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 also recite, *inter alia*,

> the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and to transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Kim to describe these elements of Claim 1.

However, Kim does not disclose or suggest containing the power-supplied portion selection unit in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device, and transmitting the internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device. As is apparent from Fig. 7, and page 7, lines 14-25, of Kim, the data format used in the communication taught by Kim includes the house code of 8 bits, the controller address of 8 bits, and the control signal of 4 bits. The illustration "control signal (8 bits)" in Fig. 7 appears to be an error. As shown in Fig. 6 of

Kim, the control signal is provided to contain a setting for only one controller at a time. Furthermore, there is no description or suggestion that the control signal is contained in any other signal, let alone an internal parameter request signal.

Kim merely discloses controlling the power supply of at least one of a plurality of electric appliances connected to the power line. This disclosure of Kim is equivalent to controlling the power supply of at least one of a plurality of image forming devices 1 to 5 connected to a network in the composition of Fig. 1 of the present application. If the disclosure of Kim is applied to the composition of Fig. 1 of the present application, the supply of all voltages to the at least one image forming device would be turned on or off.

However, as described in Claim 1, the supplying of power to only a particular power-supplied portion of the image forming device is automatically turned on, which is clearly different from Kim.

Furthermore, Park, Okazawa, and Kimura do not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Kim.

In view of the above noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 (and dependent claims 2-5, 8, 11, 12, 16-19, 22, and 25-28) patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Park, and Kim, alone or in combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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